

Garden Pond Shelter Reef

Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application relates to my copending Provisional Patent Application No. 60/442,744 which was filed on January 27, 2003. That filing date is claimed for this application.

Background of the Invention

This invention is a shelter device or pond reef to protect fish and other aquatic animals in a garden pond from predator birds.

Fish in an open garden pond are generally visible in daylight. They are easy prey for predator birds, and birds do prey on them. The fish shelter reef of this invention provides a hiding place or barrier to protect fish and other aquatic pond animals from predator birds.

Summary of the Invention

In summary, this invention is an artificial pond reef formed from sheet material into the shape of an inverted tub. It includes a peripheral base portion, upstanding sidewalls, and a roof. The base portion includes a horizontal flange extending out from the sidewalls. The sidewalls extend up to support the roof and include apertures for movement of fish and the like through the reef. The reef includes small holes for the growth of flora therethrough. The roof is configured to support and retain decorative enhancements (pebbles, sand, plants). The base, sidewalls, roof are surface-shaped and contoured to give the reef an appearance of natural rock formation. The reef is dark or black to promote bacteria growth upon it, and has a matte surface for bacteria to adhere to. An opening in the roof is for a removable receptacle for decorative enhancements.

Brief Description of Drawings

In the accompanying drawing:

Figs. 1-3 are various pictorial views of a garden pond shelter reef of this invention.

Detailed Description

With reference to the drawing, the fish shelter reef 10 of this invention is a single piece, drawn or otherwise formed from sheet of plastic material into the general configuration of an inverted washtub, as shown.

The reef 10 includes a supporting peripheral base 12, sidewalls 20 extending up from the base and supporting a roof 30. The peripheral base 12 includes an outward extending horizontal flange 14. The flange 14 provides bottom surface area to support the device, and top surface area on which to place pebbles, sand, or the like to disguise it.

The sidewalls 20 each include one or more large apertures 22 to permit fish to move freely in and out through the reef 10.

The roof 30 includes convex-upward protuberances 32, and a central opening 34, a round hole to receive a removable receptacle such as a pot 36 for a marine plant, or for pebbles or the like to enhance the overall natural appearance of the reef.

The reef 10 includes a number of 1/2" to 3/4" diameter holes 16 through some or all of the base 12, sidewalls 20, and roof 30, to permit growth of marine weeds through them.

The base 12, sidewalls 20, and top 30 are not flat or plain surfaced; they are shaped and contoured as shown to give the device the appearance of natural rock formation.

The reef 10 is formed of non-toxic low density polyethylene. The reef is of a matte finish, and is preferably black or dark gray. A black or dark surface promotes the growth of bacteria on it, and bacteria cling to a matte surface more effectively than to a smooth shiny finish. Bacteria are ecologically beneficial here. They consume fish and aquatic animal waste, such as nitrite, feces, and ammonia, to keep the pond water clear.

The foregoing description of a preferred embodiment of this invention sets forth the best mode presently contemplated by the inventor of carrying out this invention. Any details as to materials, quantities, dimensions, and the like are intended as illustrative. The concept and scope of the invention are limited not by the description but only by the following claims and equivalents thereof.